

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

December 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Overall, unemployment was higher than usual and rose faster than usual

In November, the national unemployment rate rose from 5.3 percent to 5.7 percent, Wisconsin's rate rose from 4.1 percent to 4.5 percent and South Central Wisconsin's rate rose from 2.7 percent to 3.0 percent. (See table below.) Averaging the unemployment rates reported in each November from 1990 to 2001, the typical November rates are lower than this November's rates for the nation, the state, and four of the six South Central Wisconsin counties. (See chart to right.) Columbia and Sauk were the only counties in the region below their typical rates. Columbia's rate has been very near its trend level this year and has been below that level only two months this year. Sauk's rates have also been fairly close to trend this year, but slightly below.

Averaging the October-to-November changes in the unemployment rate, the typical increase has generally been smaller than this November's unemployment rate increase for the nation, the state and three South Central counties. (See page 2 graph.)

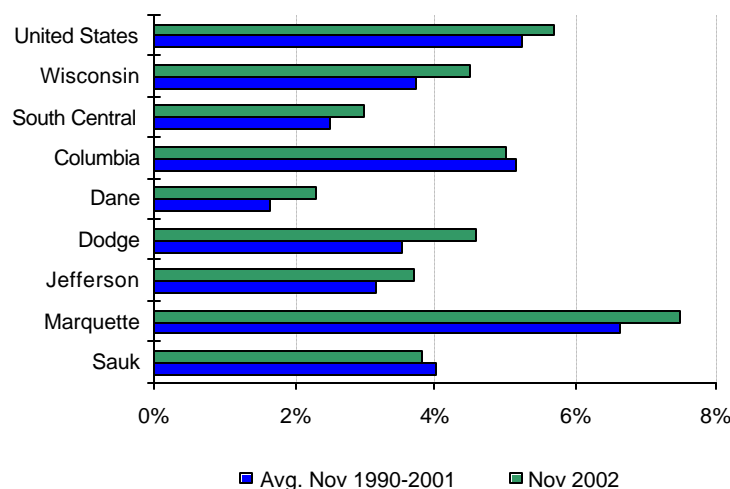
County Workforce Profiles published

For detailed analysis of population, labor force, employment by industry, wages by industry, occupational groups, education attainment, and income, please see the new edition of the County workforce profiles at

http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/cp_pdf/cp_mainx.htm.

The publishers will not print this edition or mail hard copies.

Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



The increase matched the trend in Marquette and Sauk counties. Columbia was the only county to experience a smaller-than-usual increase in its November unemployment rate. Seasonal unemployment rate shifts in Columbia and Sauk counties have been slightly milder than usual this year. Partially contributing to this taming of seasonal trends was retail trade's smaller-than-average increases in the spring and smaller-than-average declines in the autumn (in both counties). Dane County typically adds 1,300 to 1,700 retail jobs in November. This November's lackluster increase of nearly 1,100 is not surprising given that retail hiring

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

November 2002 Estimates	Wisconsin	South Central WI	Madison MSA	Columbia County	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Marquette County	Sauk County
November 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	3,056,100	447,900	284,100	28,100	47,700	43,500	7,400	37,100
Employed	2,916,700	434,300	277,700	26,700	45,500	41,900	6,900	35,700
Unemployed	139,400	13,600	6,400	1,430	2,200	1,610	560	1,390
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	3.0	2.3	5.1	4.6	3.7	7.5	3.8
Change From October 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	2,400	270	2,500	-510	-810	-180	-60	-670
Employed	-10,800	-1,070	2,100	-720	-1,020	-340	-190	-880
Unemployed	13,200	1,340	420	210	210	160	130	210
Unemployment Rate (%)	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.7
Change From November 2001								
Civilian Labor Force*	61,800	12,000	8,800	860	-110	560	280	1,650
Employed	55,500	11,500	7,900	820	320	710	210	1,510
Unemployed	6,300	530	860	40	-430	-150	70	140
Unemployment Rate (%)	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	-0.9	-0.4	0.6	0.3

cludes participants residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers, results are rounded.

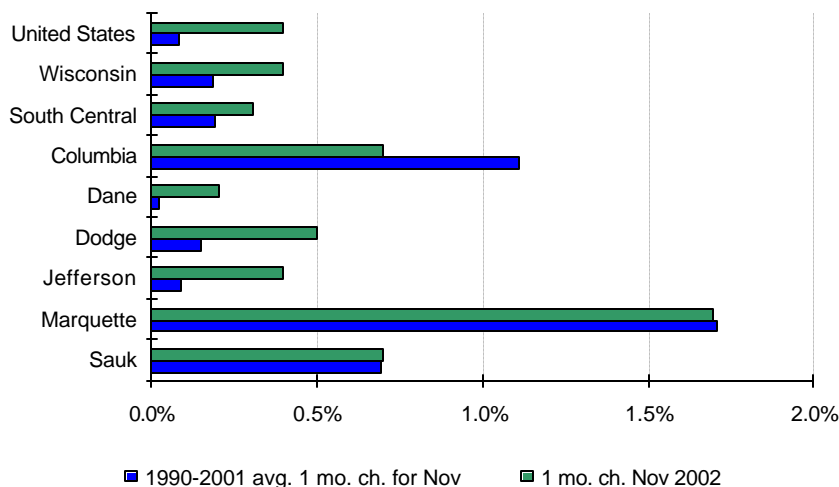
has been below par since August. The other South Central counties do not appear to be as far below their typical trend lines for retail employment. Nationally, deep discounting and consumers holding out for (or shopping around for) deeper discounts add to retailers' anxiety and lack of enthusiasm prospects for holiday revenues.

Perhaps the most striking deviation from seasonal trends this November was the loss of over 500 manufacturing jobs in Dodge County in November. In the first days of December, Maysteel, a manufacturer of elec-

trical enclosures, announced that it would close its Mayville plant next spring. Unfortunately this does not help explain why Dodge County has lost over 500 manufacturing jobs last

November and this November, when it typically loses 125 to 225. Durable goods manufacturing (providing nearly 7,200 jobs) lost fewer than 150 jobs while nondurable manufacturing (providing fewer than 4,300 jobs) lost almost 400. These preliminary estimates may overstate losses if sampled employers shed many more jobs than un-sampled employers.

Unemployment rate changes - not seasonally adjusted



Payroll employment estimates - not seasonally adjusted

November 2002 Estimates	Wisconsin	South Central WI	Madison MSA	Columbia County	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Marquette County	Sauk County
November 2002								
Total jobs, all industries**	2,870,000	440,100	304,600	21,500	35,000	37,700	3,900	37,300
Construction & Mining	131,000	20,300	13,300	1,110	2,300	1,190	290	2,100
Manufacturing	567,700	67,400	30,200	5,700	11,700	11,300	1,280	7,300
Transport & Public Util.	132,000	15,200	10,600	640	1,400	1,510	80	1,030
Wholesale Trade	135,100	17,100	12,000	750	1,040	1,340	100	1,810
Retail Trade	518,700	77,900	52,300	4,100	5,100	7,600	690	8,200
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	153,900	27,400	24,100	410	790	860	120	1,160
Services	798,000	116,200	83,800	4,800	7,100	9,800	610	10,100
Government	433,700	98,500	78,400	4,000	5,500	4,200	760	5,600
Change From October 2002								
Total jobs, all industries**	2,900	1,420	3,100	-410	-500	-80	-70	-630
Construction & Mining	-3,200	-190	90	-20	-60	-40	-20	-130
Manufacturing	-2,700	-630	-210	-110	-310	0	30	-30
Transport & Public Util.	-640	-140	-40	-30	0	-20	0	-60
Wholesale Trade	-430	-90	-70	0	-10	0	0	-10
Retail Trade	8,100	1,020	1,100	-140	40	60	-10	-20
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	20	-30	-20	0	0	0	0	-10
Services	-4,800	-1,280	-460	-140	-190	-50	-60	-390
Government	6,500	2,700	2,700	40	40	-30	-10	0
Change From November 2001								
Total jobs, all industries**	730	10,400	8,800	1,020	-1,060	-230	-20	1,930
Construction & Mining	2,500	-640	-630	50	30	-20	-50	-30
Manufacturing	-43,400	-3,000	-800	270	-1,520	-1,060	30	130
Transport & Public Util.	-4,900	100	210	-70	80	-100	0	-10
Wholesale Trade	-3,100	-600	-550	-30	-40	-50	10	50
Retail Trade	2,700	970	-280	140	200	340	-20	580
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	5,700	2,200	2,200	-60	-30	40	10	40
Services	25,100	8,100	6,200	480	-60	470	30	990
Government	16,100	3,200	2,400	230	270	150	-10	170

**Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers, results rounded.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

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